

MINUTES

OF THE

Fourteenth Annual Session

OF THE

Leaf River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

WASHINGTON CHURCH

Greene County, Mississippi

October 15, 16 and 17, 1904

OFFICERS:

D. B. BOOTH, Moderator	Mullett, Miss.
J. E. JOHNSON, Clerk	Lucedale, Miss.
J. C. ROBERTS, Treasurer	Grafton, Miss.



ORDAINED MINISTERS.

—ELDER ALEXANDER BRELAND	Kittrell, Miss.
—ELDER P. G. HILLMAN	Kittrell, Miss.
ELDER J. P. GRIFFIN	Pearce, Ala.
—ELDER D. B. BOOTH	Mullett, Miss.
ELDER C. M. BRELAND	Merrill, Miss.
ELDER R. B. LEE	McLain, Miss.
—ELDER JEFF LOTT	Lucedale, Miss.

LICENTIATES.

C. W. HARRISON,	E. E. ROBERTS,
W. W. WOLLEY,	A. W. MORGAN.

MINUTES

OF THE

Leaf River Baptist Association

FIRST DAY'S SESSION.

The delegates comprising the Leaf River Baptist Association met with Washington Church, Greene Co., Miss., for the purpose of holding its Fourteenth Annual Session, to-day, October the 15th, A. D. 1904. The weather was ideal. Quite a number of the brethren were on the grounds early, relating the happenings of the past year. The time was very pleasantly spent by all. All the delegates seemed to anticipate a good, quiet, prosperous session.

At 11 o'clock Rev. P. G. Hillman opened services by reading 22 verses of the 3rd chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The reading was followed by Bro. Hillman preaching the introductory sermon of about forty minutes duration, to a quiet and attentive audience. An intermission of one hour was given for dinner, which was plentiful, wholesome and nourishing. Dinner being over, the delegates returned to the house promptly at 1 o'clock P. M., and sang a song of praise, and prayer was offered by Bro. J. P. Merritt, and the body was declared in order for the transaction of business.

J. E. Johnson and W. C. Roberts were appointed as reading clerks. J. P. Merritt was appointed to preach at the stand at 3 P. M., Saturday. Brethren J. Kittrell, J. C. Roberts and C. W. Harrison were appointed as Committee

on Finance. Committee on Preaching consisted of Brethren J. F. Brewer, A. C. Jordan, A. W. Morgan and the deacons of Washington Church.

A call was made for church letters, and the following were presented and the names of delegates enrolled:

Washington: J. D. Byrd, D. F. Bradley and Chas. Hillman.

New Hope: J. R. Parker and J. Vice.

Mt. Pisgah: Wm. Beard and Wm. Linter.

Sweet Water: J. D. Turner, D. R. Williams and S. W. Ball.

Cedar Grove: S. R. Breland, J. Kittrell and G. W. Smith.

Salem: C. W. Harrison and J. L. Davis.

Pleasant Hill: G. West, J. K. Roberts and J. F. Brewer.

Lucedale: Jeff Lott, L. E. Mallett and J. E. Johnson.

Rocky Creek: C. P. Eubanks, D. B. Booth and Clem Mallett.

Fair Hope: A. C. Jordan, J. B. Turner and C. B. Lott.

Buffalo: W. C. Roberts, S. Q. Bradley and S. B. McIlwain.

Fellowship: C. P. Smith and W. J. Neal.

Seminary: Represented by letter.

Sand Hill: J. C. Roberts, J. F. Roberts and Trust McLain.

Merrill: Represented by letter.

Call was made for petitionary letters.

Call made for correspondence. Letters and messengers were presented from the three sister Associations, Ebenezer, Tallahala and Southeastern.

Messengers, Tallahala Association: J. D. Harrison.

Ebenezer Association: A. McGilvary.

Southeastern Association: M. J. Cochran and S. F. Pierce, all of whom were given the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator.

Bro. J. P. Merritt was seated as a visiting minister.

The regular order of business was suspended just here to introduce a resolution to strike out Article 25, in Rules of Decorum.

The Association next went into an election of officers for Associational year, 1905, the Association having previously voted to separate offices of Clerk and Treasurer. A. McGilvary and S. F. Pierce were appointed as tellers to hold the election for Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, which resulted as follows:

Moderator, D. B. Booth.

Clerk, J. E. Johnson.

Treasurer, J. C. Roberts.

The committee on preaching made a partial report.

Appointment of Committees:

On Education: J. E. Johnson, C. P. Eubanks, Clem Mallett.

On Missions: Rev. Jeff Lott, L. Mallett, D. F. Bradley.

On Sabbath Schools: J. Kittrell, A. W. Morgan, D. R. Williams.

On Temperance: Rev. J. D. Harrison, J. B. Turner, Rev. Jas. P. Merritt.

On Queries and Requests: J. F. Brewer, A. C. Jordan, C. W. Harrison.

The Moderator and the Clerk of the Association were added to above committee by vote of the Association.

On State of Religion: J. R. Parker, W. P. Beard, Chas. Hillman.

A motion was carried to add to the list of reports a report on Sustenation.

On Sustenation: C. P. Smith, G. West, Jeff Byrd, S. B. McIlwain, Rev. Jeff Lott.

Messengers appointed to sister Associations:

Ebenezer Association: Floyd Roberts.

Southeastern Association: D. B. Booth, C. P. Eubanks.

Red Creek Association: Rev. Jeff Lott, C. W. Harrison, J. F. Brewer.

Macedonia Association: D. B. Booth, C. P. Smith.

Tallahala Association: A. W. Morgan, J. F. Brewer, J. B. Turner, D. B. Booth.

Motion made by D. F. Bradley that The Leaf River Association take up correspondence with the General Association of the State of Mississippi. Same was adopted, and J. Kittrell was chosen as our first representative, expenses to be borne by the Association sending him.

The Association adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

SABBATH SERVICES. Rev. Jeff Lott preached a very strong mission sermon from the stand at 11 o'clock A. M., to a very large audience of attentive listeners, and we trust that the people have been made to see their duties along those lines more plainly by having heard him. Rev. J. D. Harrison preached from the stand at 3 P. M. to a large audience of interested people.

THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

According to previous arrangements, the Association met Monday morning, October 17, 1904. The Association was called to order by singing, and prayer was offered by Bro. C. W. Harrison. The body declared in order for business. Rules of Decorum were read by Rev. Jeff Lott at request of Moderator.

Roll was called and absentees noted.

Committee reports called for.

Report on Education received and marked A; report on Missions received and marked B; report on Preaching received and marked C; report on Temperance received and marked D—last year's report; report on Queries and Requests received and marked E; report on State of Religion received and marked F.

A motion was made, and same was adopted, to incorporate two new committee reports into our minutes—report on Sustenation and report on Orphans.

Report on Sustenation received and marked G; report on Orphans received and marked H; report on Sabbath Schools received and marked I; report on Finance received and marked J.

Missionary Board appointed for Associational year, 1905:

Cedar Grove, G. W. Smith; Pleasant Hill, Gaines West; Rocky Creek, C. P. Eubanks; Washington, D. F. Bradley; Macedonia, Jno. Whatley, Sr.; Mt. Pisgah, W. T. Lister; Fellowship, C. P. Smith; Salem, C. W. Harrison; New Hope, J. R. Parker; Sweet Water, J. D. Turner; Buffalo, W. C. Roberts; Sand Hill, J. C. Roberts; Merrill, C. M. Breland; Lucedale, Jeff Lott; Fair Hope, A. G.

Sylvester; Seminary, A. W. Morgan; Moderator and Clerk of Association were added to above board by vote of the Association.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution offered by J. Kittrell:

Resolved, by the delegates in this Association assembled, that in order to have peace, harmony and brotherly love prevail among us, that we amend Rules of Decorum by striking out Article 25 of said rules.

Resolution offered by W. C. Roberts.

Resolved, that we have 400 copies of minutes printed for the use of the Association and churches, and that the Clerk superintend the printing of the same, and that he be allowed the sum of fifteen dollars for his services.

Resolution offered by Rev. Jeff Lott.

Resolved, that we insist on all of our Sunday Schools to elect delegates from each Sunday School to create a Sunday School convention to meet in conjunction with the Mission Board, and use Sundays to read essays, make speeckes, and in any way work up an intereset in this line of work.

Resolution offered by D. F. Bradley.

Resolved, that we allow our Treasurer the sum of five dollars for his services for the ensuing year.

Resolution offered by Rev. Jeff Lott.

Resolved, that we, the delegates of and visitors to, Leaf River Association, tender our heartfelt thanks to the members of the church and community for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

A. Report on Education.

We, your committee on Education, beg leave to make the following report: Brethren, our boys and girls must soon take our places in Church and State, and if any progress is made they must be better equipped for those great duties than we have been. We are confronted to-day by one of the most gigantic propositions of the 20th century—that of educating the youth of our great country. I say great, because our state and nation are so rapidly growing in population, wealth and power. What makes an individual, a state or a nation greater than others? The one simple reply is its superior intellectual development.

"Education," says Geo. Peabody, "is a debt due from present to future generations." Then, brethren, we cannot afford to deal lightly with this great question.

We believe that God will hold us strictly accountable for the way in which we discharge our duties in regard to offering our boys and girls an opportunity to be improved intellectually. Brethren, if you have to make sacrifices any where, let it be at some other place rather than in the education of those whom God has placed with you for your proper rearing and education.

Let us be willing to give cheerfully of our substance for educational purposes. We have done much, but let us not be contented with present attainments, since we can do more.

We, your committee on Education, insist that the brethren make a closer study of this burning necessity, and if you are not already in the front rank of every movement that tends toward the upbuilding and maintenance of such a great, grand and noble work, we pray God that you may see clearly that it is a duty and hasten to its call. You must know, brethren, that there is a tremendous educational wave sweeping over our great state and nation now, and we must not wait to be mustered into service, but let us, like good soldiers of all past ages, volunteer to duty's first call.

Brethren, we realize the very adverse circumstances under which you labored to receive your learning—short terms, sparsely settled communities and poorly equipped schools; but it is different now, and our boys and girls will have to be better educated than we have been if they take their places in the vanguard of this progressive age.

J. E. JOHNSON, Chairman.

B. Report on Missions.

This question of missions is one of the greatest and most vital questions which claims our earnest and prayerful attention. This question should appeal to our sympathy and enlist our support, because it lays so near the heart of our blessed Lord.

But we are greatly encouraged to be able to say that Christians are working up on this subject, and we see from the reports of the large bodies that a great work is being done. New fields are being opened up, but there are still posts that are unoccupied, and this should appeal to us as never before to enter the great work as we listen to the cries of those in darkness, "come over and help us!" Then we have the command of our blessed Lord, "Go teach all nations, baptising them."

Your committee would further recommend that the pastors preach at least four sermons a year on giving to missions, and that the churches take up quarterly collections for this purpose.

That we whose souls are lifted from on high,
No longer the lamp of life deny.

JEFF LOTT, Chairman.

C. Report on Preaching.

We, your committee on Preaching, beg leave to submit the following report:

Bro. Merritt preach Saturday night at Bro. P. G. Hillman's residence. Bro. Jeff Lott preach Saturday night at Bro. D. F. Bradley's residence. Bro. Jeff Lott preach from stand at 11 o'clock A. M. on Sunday, and Bro. J. D. Harrison preach from stand at 3 o'clock P. M. Bro. Jeff Lott preach at 11 o'clock

Monday at the stand. We recommend that Bro. Jeff Lott preach the introductory sermon at our next annual convention, and that Bro. Alex Breland be his alternate.

J. F. BREWER, Chairman.

D. Report on Temperance.

Previous report of 1904 adopted by the Association.

E. Report on Queries and Requests.

We, your committee on Queries and Requests, beg leave to make the following report: We find no queries; we find several requests for the Association. We recommend that the next convention of this Association be held with Fair Hope Church, Perry County, Miss., and that Bro. Jeff Lott preach the introductory sermon, and Bro. Alex Breland be his alternate.

F. Report on State of Religion.

We, your committee on State of Religion, report that there have been some advances made along most lines pertaining to religion. In the churches there have been 66 baptisms, as shown by the letters from the different churches, for the past year. There seems to be an increased interest in Sunday School work. Some of our churches are moving forward along the line of every religious duty which we owe to our Master. There has been very little work done by our Association in the destitution near us, but the prospects are promising for greater work in the future.

So, brethren, let us all take courage, and let our watchword be "the world for Christ."

J. R. PARKER, Chairman.

G. Report on Sustenation.

We, your committee on Sustenation, beg leave to make the following report:

When our faithful servants, through old age or other infirmities of life, are no longer able to take the field of labor in

our Master's cause, we hear that great plaudit, saying, "well done, thou good and faithful servant; take thy rest." Brethren, very few of our ministers who are true to their calling lay by any of this world's goods to be used in old age. True, some are more fortunate than others, and the less fortunate ones are the ones who should receive our careful consideration. We have several aged ministers and widows of ministers who need our help, and we must care for them.

The Scriptures teach us that we should not rebuke an elder, but treat him as a father. None of us would allow our father to suffer for the necessities of life, after he had spent his life for our education, food, etc. These aged brethren are our fathers and we must care for them, and their widows and orphans.

C. P. SMITH, Chairman.

H. Report on Orphans Home.

On the 18th day of July, 1894, the Baptists of the State of Mississippi located an Orphans Home in the city of Jackson, for the purpose of taking care, teaching to work, educating and training religiously the little ones who are so unfortunate as to lose father or mother, or both, and thus be left to the mercies of the world. This home has about 83 little children, and they must be fed, clothed and cared for. This is done by gifts from the Baptists of this State, and we should help to support this institution that those unfortunate children may be brought up in the right way.

C. P. EUBANKS, Chairman.

I. Report on Sabbath Schools.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report that every church should have a Sunday School, and that the members should take their children and go with them to teach them the word of God, and train them up in the way they would have them to go, and when they get old they will not depart from it. We believe that parents should teach their children the dangers of the wicked one, and to flee from the very appearance of evil.

We believe that the Scriptures should be used as our literature in our Sunday Schools, for there is some vile literature printed at this time.

A. W. MORGAN, Chairman.

J. Report on Finance.

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to report as follows:

Received from the churches	\$34.30
Received from Treasurer	2.70
Sabbath collection	23.00
Total	\$60.00

Report of Treasurer to Association:

Received from the Association	\$38.20
Paid for printing 400 minutes	17.00
Postage and Stationery	2.00
Express	1.50
Clerk's salary	15.00
Balance turned over to Finance Committee ..	\$2.70

Moved to adjourn to meet with Fair Hope church, Perry County, Miss., Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1905. The Brethren sang a closing hymn, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. D. B. Booth, Moderator.

D. B. BOOTH, Moderator.

J. E. JOHNSON, Clerk.

The Leaf River Association has had a prosperous year. We cannot say that the past year has been its most prosperous year since its organization, as we have not at hand its statistical matter. But our churches were nearly all represented by earnest, enthusiastic delegates. It can be truthfully said of our last session, which was held with Washington Church, it was the most quiet, orderly and harmonious session that we have yet witnessed. Nothing happened that would mar the happiness of anyone. Brethren let us do something for the Orphanage this year.

J. E. J.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the Churches of Jesus Christ, having been regularly baptised upon a profession of faith, being convinced of the necessity and utility of a combination of churches of the same faith add order, do agree to unite ourselves into an Association upon the following principles:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in the one only true and living God: and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: one and the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2d. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by God: that they are of divine authority: that they contain the whole of the divine will and purposes as revealed to man, and that they are the only standard of divine truth and the only and sufficient rule of faith and practice.

3rd. We believe in the fall of Adam, and in him all his posterity; the total corruption of man's moral nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4th. We believe in the everlasting love of God in His people in the eternal and unconditional election of all His spiritual children to grace and glory.

5th. We believe by the everlasting covenant, grace is treasured up in Christ to insure the generation, sanctification, preservation and preservice of all God's people so that none of them shall be finally lost.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

7th. We believe that there is one mediator between God and man—the man Christ Jesus who by the sanctification he has made to law and justice in becoming an offering for sin, hath forever redeemed his people from under the curse of the law that they might be accepted in the beloved.

8th. We believe that good works are not meritorious, that they are the fruits of faith and follow after justification; and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.

9th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and the happiness of the righteousness and punishment of the will be eternal.

10th. We believe that foot washing is an example practiced by Christ, and that it is a duty to practice it.

GOSPEL ORDER.

1st. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in brotherly covenant to keep a Godly discipline agreeable to the New Testament.

2d. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only head and law-giver of His Church, and the government is with the body, the church, and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.

3d. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in His Church until His second coming.

4th. We believe that immersion only is baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects.

5th. We believe nothing but regularly baptised church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6th. We believe that it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to the ordinance of the gospel, and to give themselves as members of the visible church.

7th. We believe it to be the duty of every church to expel from her communion every member that is immoral in conduct or that holds doctrine contrary to the scriptures.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. This association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the church to which they respectively belong, and shall be styled the Leaf River Baptist Association.

2d. Such delegates shall be members in good standing, and no member under church censure shall be allowed a seat in the association.

3d. They shall produce letters certifying to their appointment by their respective churches, and stating the number baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased during the preceding associational year, with the total number of fellowship and such other statistical matters as the association may direct.

4th. This association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer who shall be chosen annually by a majority of the members present: said Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot and shall fill their respective places, if present, at the succeeding association until a new election takes place, and while in office shall discharge the duties ordinarily incident to those offices.

5th. If new churches desire to be admitted into this association, they shall petition by letters and delegates, and if orthodox and orderly shall be received, and the Moderator shall recognize them by giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the body.

6th. Each church shall have three delegates, and no more, who shall be entitled to seats in the body and to vote. All ministers of the same faith and order are invited to seat with us, to aid us in counsel.

7th. The association shall neither answer nor debate any query on gospel doctrine, except it be to merely explain the articles of faith of this association.

8th. Every motion made and seconded shall be reduced to writing if requested by any member, and shall be considered by the association except it be withdrawn by the mover before discussion.

9th. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded in the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

10th. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken on each point separately.

11th. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the subject properly in debate, cast no reflection on the association or any member thereof, and shall not be interrupted while speaking.

12th. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the association.

13th. The moderator shall have the privilege of speaking on any subject in debate, the chair being previously filled. He shall rise from his seat and put the question to the body.

14th. The Moderator shall decide questions of order, but appeal from such decisions may be taken to the whole which shall decide without debate.

15th. A majority of the members present shall be necessary to carry any motion or proposition and the moderator shall vote as other members when the vote is taken.

16th. Committees shall be nominated by the Moderator, subject to the approval of the association.

17th. There shall be no talking or whispering while a brother is speaking.

18th. No brother shall finally depart from the association without leave of the body.

19th. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over when thought necessary.

20th. The minutes shall be read, carefully corrected and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association arises.

21st. A motion for final adjournment shall be constructed to involve the previous reading and adjustment of the minutes.

22d. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

23d. Immediately after the organization of the association the Rules of Order shall be read from the chair.

24th. The foregoing shall be subject to alternation or amendment at any regular meeting of association.

FORM OF LETTER.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, }

The regular Baptist Church at..... (here insert name
of church) to Leaf River Association, Greeting:

Dear Brethren:—We again prepare to meet you by letter
and by delegates, and for this purpose have chosen our beloved
brethren

to sit with you in council, to whom we refer you for any infor-
mation not contained in our statistical table, which is as follows:

Baptized.....; received by letter.....; restored.....;
dismissed by letter.....; excommunicated.....; deceased.....;
total in fellowship.....; number of copies of minutes.....; we
send for associational purposes, \$.....; for home missions, \$.....
our supply is.....; time of meeting is.....; ordained ministers.....;
licentiates..... our postoffice is.....

Remarks

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	DELEGATES	PASTORS	POSTOFFICE	COUNTY	Baptised	Rec'd by letter	Restored	Dismissed y Letter	Expelled	Deceased	Total in Fellowship	No. Minutes	Associational Purposes
Washington	D. F. Bradley, Chas. Hillman, J. D. Byrd	J. D. Harrison	McLain	Greene	5	1	1	1			110	30	\$3 00
New Hope	J. R. Parker, J. Vice	Jeff Lott	Howell	Jackson	3	1	1	1			49	15	2 00
Mt. Pisgah	Wm. Beard, Wm. Lister	A. J. Easley	Exsho	Ala	18	5	1	1			48	30	2 50
Sweet Water	J. D. Turner, D. R. Williams, S. W. Ball	Alex Breland	Looksville	Greene	2	2	3				105	30	4 00
Cedar Grove	S. R. Breland, J. Kittrell, G. W. Smith	Alex Breland	Jonathan	Greene	1						51	30	3 00
Salem	C. W. Harrison, J. L. Davis		McLain	Greene							27	15	1 00
Sand Hill	J. C. Roberts, J. F. Roberts, Forest McLain	A. M. Sheppard	Grafton	Greene							35	10	2 50
Merrill	Represented by letter	T. E. H. Robinson	Merrill	Greene	4	6	1	1			35	10	2 50
Pleasant Hill	Gaines West, J. F. Brewer, A. J. Bradley	P. G. Hillman	Janet	Greene	7	12	1	1			67	25	3 50
Lucedale	Jeff Lott, L. E. Maillett, J. E. Johnson	Jeff Lott	Luceon	Greene	4	12	8	4			78	30	3 00
Rocky Creek	C. P. Eubanks, Clem Maillett, D. B. Booth	Jeff Lott	Maillett	Greene	5	4	3	1			104	35	3 80
Buffalo	A. C. Jordan, J. B. Turner, C. B. Lott	Alex Breland	Beaumont	Perry	2	2					73	25	1 50
Macdonia	S. Q. Bradley, W. C. Roberts, S. B. McIlwain	D. B. Booth	McLain	Greene							37	15	1 00
Fall Hope	Not Represented		Brushy	Greene							17	10	1 00
Seminary	C. P. Smith, W. J. Neal	P. G. Hillman	Adamsville	Greene	1						17	15	1 00
Emon	Represented by letter	J. P. Merrill	Hintonville	Perry							27	15	1 50
Oak Grove	Not Represented												
TOTAL					66	36	17	7	11		941	262	\$34 30

Error in total of past year of 130—867 instead of 997, as reported.

57.30